

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-13 are pending, with claims 1 and 6 being independent. Claim 6 has been amended to independent form and to even more clearly recite and distinctly claim particularly preferred embodiments of the present invention. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the specification, including in the original claims. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 9 and 12 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections in view of Goetz

Claims 1, 6, 7, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by International Patent Application Publication No. WO 97/403328 ("Goetz").

Claims 2-5, 8 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Goetz. Applicants note that the English equivalent of Goetz is U.S. Patent No. 5,964,097.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections; therefore, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Goetz discloses a device for producing cold and/or heat by chemical reaction comprising ***two reactors***, a ***first housing*** for receiving the gas from the reactors, and a ***second housing*** for delivering gas to the reactors. (Abstract). Goetz also discloses a process for carrying out chemical reactions between at least one salt and a gas in the above-described device. The process comprises ***running a first reactor***, by making its salt react with the gas, between the pressure of the enclosure designed to receive the gas and the pressure of the enclosure designed to deliver the gas and ***simultaneously, running the second reactor***, by making its salt react with the gas, between the pressure of the enclosure designed to receive the gas and a pressure below that of the enclosure designed to deliver the gas to the first

reactor. (Col. 2, lines 27-42, emphasis added). As such, the method of Goetz is a method wherein the two procedures are carried out *simultaneously*.

In contrast, the presently claimed method of claim 1 comprises a working cycle with three separate phases. In the first step, the chamber (1) is isolated and the chambers (EC) and (2) are brought into communication in order to carry out the exothermic synthesis in (2), the heat produced being absorbed by the chamber (1). In the second step, the chamber (2) is isolated and the chambers (EC) and (1) are brought into communication in order to carry out the exothermic synthesis in (1), the heat produced being absorbed by the chamber (2). In the third step, the three chambers are brought into communication and thermal energy is supplied to the chamber (1) in order to carry out the exothermic decomposition steps in (1) and in (2), for the purpose of regenerating the installation, which is then left to return to the ambient temperature. As such, during the first step or phase *only one* of the reactors (reactor (2)) is working in “production” mode and during the second step or phase *only one* of the reactors (reactor (1)) is working in production” mode. During the third step or phase, both reactors work in “regeneration” mode. Accordingly, the presently claimed method operates significantly differently than the method of Goetz and provides a significantly different result.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Goetz does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed method of refrigeration.

In particular, in the Office Action, the Examiner refers to FIG. 1 of Goetz and alleges that the valves 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 and pipes 32 and 34 can be arranged to accomplish any desired connection between the housings 16, 18 and the reactors 10, 12. However, Goetz clearly states that the first and second reactors are run *simultaneously*. (Col. 2, lines 35-42). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Goetz *cannot* be interpreted as disclosing a connection between housings and reactors that would provide anything other than *simultaneous operation* of the two reactors and as such, Goetz cannot disclose or suggest the presently claimed method of refrigeration.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Goetz does not anticipate or render obvious claims 1-5.

Moreover, independent claim 6 relates to an installation for refrigeration comprising an endothermic component comprised of a device (EC) and an exothermic component comprised of two reactors, reactor (1) and a reactor (2). The installation is operated according to the method as described above. As claimed and described in the specification, the endothermic component is an “evaporator/condenser” element formed of a single chamber that acts alternatively as an evaporator or as a condenser.

In contrast, Goetz discloses a device comprising two reaction chambers, which are operated simultaneously as described above. The two reaction chambers are associated with *two chambers*, which also operate simultaneously, one as a *condenser* and one as an *evaporator*. As such, Goetz discloses a device comprising two reaction chambers and a *separate condenser (16) and evaporator (18)*. (FIG. 1 and Col. 2, lines 58-65).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Goetz does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed installation for refrigeration. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Goetz does not anticipate or render obvious claims 6-8, 10, 11, and 13.

For at least the above-reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a).

Conclusion

For the reasons noted above, the art of record does not disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

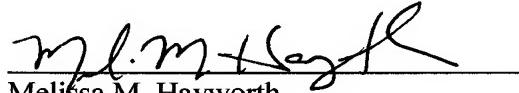
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the claims and allowance of the subject application is earnestly solicited. In the event that there are any questions relating to this application, it would be appreciate if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Serial No. 10/521,760
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Reply to Office Action Mailed: January 18, 2008
Attorney Docket No. 104011.B130113

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #104011.B130113).

Respectfully submitted,

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